



DEPARTMENT OF  
VETERANS AFFAIRS  
Washington DC 20420

VIA Email: [70074-25811373@requests.muckrock.com](mailto:70074-25811373@requests.muckrock.com)

Mr. Jasper Craven  
MuckRock News DEPT MR 70074  
411A Highland Avenue Somerville, MA 02144-2516

Re: FOIA Tracking Number **19-04802-F**

Dear Mr. Craven:

This letter acknowledges receipt of your electronic Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) dated February 27, 2019, received by the Office of Acquisition Logistics and Construction Office on March 18, 2019 in which you requested:

"All emails between Dr. Michael Fallon ([Michael.fallon@va.gov](mailto:Michael.fallon@va.gov)) , Gabrielle Saunders ([Gabrielle.saunders@va.gov](mailto:Gabrielle.saunders@va.gov)), Stephanie McGovern ([Stephanie.mcgovern@va.gov](mailto:Stephanie.mcgovern@va.gov)), Jake Leinenkugel and all officials in VA leadership (<https://www.va.gov/opa/bios>) concerning service dogs for PTSD between Jan. 1, 2017 and present day. Keywords include: "ptsd" "dog" "canine" "study" "results" "evidence" and "price."

As stated in the VACO FOIA Service acknowledgement letter dated March 15, 2019; (FOIA Reference Number 19-04708-F) the Office of Acquisitions Logistic only has oversight of e-mails during the time frame requested for the following VA Leadership personnel:

1. Ms. Karen Brazell - Current Executive Director Acquisition Officer, Office of Acquisitions Logistics and Construction
2. Mr. Gregory Giddens – Former Executive Director Acquisition Officer, Office of Acquisitions Logistics and Construction and;
3. Mr. Jan Frye – Former Acting Executive Director Acquisition Officer, Office of Acquisitions Logistics and Construction

All other aspects of your request will be processed by the offices named in the above-mentioned letter.

**Multitrack Processing—38 C.F.R. §§ 1.556**

We use Multitrack Processing to process FOIA requests. The Simple track is for requests that can be processed in one to twenty workdays. The Complex track is for requests that can be processed in twenty-one to sixty workdays. Within each track, requests are usually processed on a first-in, first-out basis. This request falls under the "Complex" processing track.

As of today, I have requested our Information Technology (IT) staff search the e-mail boxes for the above-mentioned personnel using the following search term as responsive identifiers:

1. Ptsd
2. Dog
3. Canine
4. Study
5. Results
6. Evidence
7. Price

While I work on getting records for requests simultaneously, and I am required to review, redacted responsive records, and respond to them on a first-in, first-out basis.

I regret to inform you that our office expects a delay in processing this request due to a shortage of FOIA Staff coupled with a significant FOIA backlog, and the requirements under 38. C.F.R 1.555 (C) to consult with the component(s) that generated the documents or have a substantial interest in the records prior to any disclosures.

Please be assured that I am working as diligently to process all requests and will update you again on the status of your request and address any fees or fee waiver determinations once I receive the search response from our IT Department.

You may narrow the scope of your request to obtain quicker processing in your currently-assigned track or move the request into a faster track (which may have the effect of reducing the cost of processing your request). If you have any questions about this, please contact us.

Sincerely,

*Patricia Litewski*

OALC – PPS FOIA Officer